

Some Woodsias from the North Shore of Lake Superior

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Dr. F. K. Butters described in 1941¹ two *Woodsia* hybrids from Cook County and adjacent St. Louis County, Minnesota and Ontario, Canada. He mentioned the occurrence of five species in Cook County, in some places all "within a radius of a few hundred yards." Surely this makes the area one of the best *Woodsia* haunts in the country. The five species and two hybrids all grow on calcareous rocks and the rare ones are confined to them.

Knowing from a geological report² of the existence of similar calcareous rocks on Thunder Cape near the town of Silver Islet (about 15 miles east of Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada) we planned to visit the area at our first opportunity and in 1947 a week was spent camping and collecting at Silver Islet.

In the 1880's this historic town was the site of one of the richest silver mines in Canada. All told, about three and a half million dollars in silver was mined. The mine is located, and can be seen today, on a very small island just off the mainland. We were told that the ore-bearing vein was discovered accidentally while prospectors were using the islet as a triangulation station in their survey of the Sleeping Giant. Many of the old mining town buildings still remain in good condition, much to our advantage since we spent the first rainy night in the old jail and used it later as a press room.

The southern tip of Thunder Cape, on the western side, is composed of several large rock formations that

¹ Amer. Fern Journ. 31: 15-21. 1941.

² Tanton, T. L. Fort William, Port Arthur and Thunder Cape Map Areas, Thunder Bay District, Ontario. Canada Geological Survey, Memoir 167. 1931.